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Integrated sputtering target assembly.

A target plate assembly (77; 124; 213) completely covers and seals against a top opening of a sputtering processing chamber (69; 138). Cooling liquid connections are provided only from the perimeter of the target assembly (77; 114; 213). When a top vacuum chamber (109; 114) seals the side opposite the pressure chamber (69; 138), the pressure on both sides of the target assembly (77; 114; 213) is nearly equalized. Large thin target assemblies, such as large flat plates used for flat panel displays can be sputtered effectively and uniformly without adverse sputtering effects due to target deflection or cooling deficiencies.

A target (79; 127; 181), target backing plate (80; 128; 171), and cover plate (95; 125; 126; 197) may form the target plate assembly (77; 124; 213). The sputtering target assembly (77; 124; 213) includes an integral cooling passage. A series of grooves (70; 96; 149; 172) are constructed in either the target backing plate (80; 128; 171) or the target backing cooling cover plate (95; 125; 126; 197), which are then securely bonded to one another. The sputtering target (79; 127; 181) can be a single monolith with a target backing plate (80; 128; 171) or can be securely attached to the target backing plate (80; 128; 171) by one of any number of conventional bonding

methods. Tantalum to titanium, titanium to titanium and aluminum to titanium, diffusion bonding can be used.

The energized target assembly is protected from adjacent components by overlapping insulators (117; 134; 210; 216; 133) to prevent accidents and isolate the target assembly from other components. An electrical connection to the target assembly (77; 124; 213) remains unconnected until a vacuum is produced in the top chamber (109; 114).

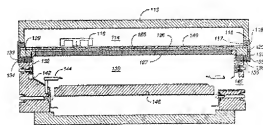


Fig. 31

EP 0 654 543 A2